54A.

electric company may begin the construction in Maryland of a generating station or any overhead transmission line designed to carry a voltage in excess of 69,000 volts, or exercise the right of eminent domain in connection therewith, without having first obtained from the Commission a certificate public convenience and necessity for the construction of the station or line. Upon receipt of an application, the Commission shall notify all interested persons, this will include the [Department] OFFICE of [State] Planning who will be responsible for forwarding the application to appropriate State agencies in units of local government for review, evaluation and comment as to the significance of the proposal to State, areawide and local plans or programs. The Commission shall hold a public hearing on each application for a certificate of public convenience and necessity in the area in which any portion of the construction of a generating station or an overhead transmission line designed to carry a voltage in excess of 69,000 volts is proposed to be located, together with the local governing bodies of each such area, unless any governing body wishes not to participate in the The Commission shall insure presentation hearing. recommendations from interested State agencies and shall permit representatives of those agencies to sit during hearing of parties. The Commission shall take final action only after due consideration of the recommendations of such governing bodies, the need to meet present and future demands for service, effect on system stability and reliability, economics, esthetics, historic sites, aviation safety as determined by the State Aviation Administration and the administrator of the Federal Aviation Administration, and, when applicable, the effect on air and water pollution, and, the availability of means for the required timely disposal of wastes produced by any fossil fuel or nonfossil fuel generating station for which an application is received by the Commission after July 1, 1981. The Commission shall allow State agencies 15 days after conclusion of the hearing to modify their initial recommendations. The said public hearing shall be advertised in a newspaper of general circulation in the area affected once in each of the two successive weeks immediately prior to the hearing. In no event shall an electric company construct, or be authorized by the Commission to construct, such an overhead transmission line in line with, and within one mile of, either end of any public airport runway, unless the Federal Aviation Administration has determined that the construction of such overhead transmission line will not constitute a hazard to air navigation and such determination has been concurred in by the State Aviation Administration. A privately owned airport runway shall qualify as a public airport runway within the meaning of this section only when it shall have been on file with the Federal Aviation Administration for a period of two years as being open to the public without restriction.